# **Spring Mill State Park**

#### All programs are free unless otherwise noted.

Programs at all our state parks and reservoirs: www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/12066.htm

#### **Nature Center**

Open Daily 10am-5pm

#### **Pioneer Village**

Sat 11a-7p, Sun 11a-5p, Mon-Thu 9a-5p, Fri 9a-7p

#### **Virgil I. Grissom Memorial**

Open Daily 8:30am-4pm

#### **Twin Caves Boat Tours**

Open Daily 9am-5pm \$3/adult, \$1/child (ages 3-11)

#### **Virgil I. Grissom Memorial**

Open Daily 8:30am-4pm

#### **Mountain Bike Rental**

Open Daily; Hours Vary Check out bikes at Campstore \$5/hour or \$20/day

#### **Campground Hayrides**

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 7pm, 8pm, 9pm; \$3/person Register at Campstore

#### Please arrive on time for scheduled programs. Spring Mill State Park follows Eastern Daylight Time.

#### Public programs are designed for individuals and families.

If you will be bringing an organized group, contact the Nature Center in advance for a copy of our program catalogue and schedule a private program just for your group. (812) 849-4129

#### Get advance notice of special events and programs!

Sign up for our email list at the Nature Center, Pioneer Village Grist Mill, Spring Mill Inn, or email springmillstatepark-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

#### HP-HP Healthy Parks – Healthy People

Get "INShape" with us, and discover what it takes to keep a state park healthy.



LOOK FOR

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WATCH FOR THE ROVING NATURALION

# Tuesday, July 1

3:30pm



A Fish Story – Join us for an interactive storytelling time to explore how water quality impacts the lives of fish. Nature Center Amphitheater (40 min).

July 2008

7p-9p



Pioneer Mysteries – Watch for the roving interpreter and see if you can guess the identity of some "mystery" pioneer artifacts. Campground.

### Wednesday, July 2

11:00am



**Down to Donaldson** – Bring a flashlight, wear comfortable shoes, and be prepared to get a little bit muddy as we explore the "dry side" of Donaldson Cave. Meet at the Donaldson Cave parking lot, next to the bulletin board (1 hr).

4:00pm



What's going on in there? – Take a hike through the virgin timber of Donaldson Woods for a look at trees inside and out and from top to bottom. Discover how these giant plants live, breath, eat and die. Meet at Twin Caves parking lot (1 hr).

# Thursday, July 3

12:30pm



Beautiful Butterfly - Create a unique butterfly picture, using leaf rubbings, and learn about a few of the common butterflies you might see in the village garden. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (1 hr).

2p-4p

**Drawstring Pouch** – Drop by to make your own miniature leather pouch and learn what pioneers carried instead of a purse. Pioneer Village, Leather Shop.

### Friday, July 4

## Old-Fashiened independence Celebration

11:00am

**Uncle Sam Pin** – Show your patriotism with this cute pin and learn about the history behind the Uncle Sam icon. Nature Center Amphitheater (45 min).

1:00pm

**Double Knit Do-Over** – Learn how to recycle your old clothes and other fabric items, made from "double knit" material, into a rug. Pioneer Village, Weaver's/Sheeks' Cabin (30 min).

3:00pm

**Blab School** – Our school mistress will be convening class this afternoon... join her for an 1800s one-room school experience. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (40 min).

5:00pm

**Flags Forever -** Learn about the history of the American and Union/Confederate flags, then try your hand at tooling an 1863 flag design (when the American flag had 35 stars) into leather. Pioneer Village, Leather Shop (15 min program, followed by craft).

8:15pm

**Tin Can Lantern** – Punch a design and create a unique lantern for your campsite picnic table! *Cost is \$1/person and supplies are limited (first-come first-served)*. Campground Amphitheater, next to site #108 (30 min).

I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him.

- Abraham Lincoln -

# Saturday, July 5

## Old-Fashiened Independence Celebration

11:00am

**Uncle Sam Folk Art Figure** – Make a unique representation of Uncle Sam in the folk art style (*an example will be on display in the Nature Center on Friday*)! Cost is \$2/person; limited to 10 people. Pre-register at the Nature Center on Friday between 10am and 5pm; any remaining open spaces will be filled on a first-come first-serve on Saturday morning. Nature Center Amphitheater (60-90 min).

11:30am

**Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

12:30pm

**Clothespin Doll** – Pioneer children made simple toys to play with and you can make your own clothespin doll! *Cost is \$1/person*. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (45 min).

1:30pm

**Blowing in the Wind** – Create a decorative star mobile to spin in the wind for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Nature Center Amphitheater (if windy, come inside to the Program Room) (1 hr).

2:30pm

**Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

3:00pm

**Snakes!** – Meet the Nature Center's resident reptiles and explore the natural history of snakes. Nature Center Amphitheater (45 min).

3p-4:30p

**Don't be a litter bug!** – Indiana state parks have a "carry in, carry out" policy for trash. Make the "carry out" part a little simpler by dropping by to construct a litter box for your car from recycled materials. Butternut Grove Picnic Area.

3:30pm

Patriotic Whirl-i-gig – Assemble a fun toy that spins down through the air – similar to toys made by 1800s children to celebrate Independence Day. Pioneer Village, Summer Kitchen in the Weaver's/Sheeks' Cabin (30 min).

Saturday programs continued on next page...

### Saturday, July 5 Continued...

**4:30pm** Fire It Up –The Blacksmith will discuss how the forge is set up and

how much heat it generates while demonstrating the basic steps of

blacksmithing. Pioneer Village, Blacksmith's Shop (30 min).

6:00pm

**Kid's Parade** – Kids are invited to bring their bike, tricycle, wagon, etc. to the Campground Amphitheater. A naturalist will have supplies to help you decorate your wheels! After we've finished decorating, the kids will parade their work through the campground loop. Meet next to site #108 (1 hr).

9:15pm

**Eek, Mosquito!** – Don't let these insects ruin your holiday! Find out what role mosquitoes serve and pick up a mosquito "fun pack" to enjoy at your campsite. *Bench seating is limited; we recommend bringing your blanket/chairs.* Campground Amphitheater, next to site #108 (30 min).

# Sunday, July 6

# Old-Fashioned Independence Celebration

**Make Your Own Fishing Pole!** – Need a pole for this afternoon's derby? Come to this program and make your own... a great introductory fishing pole for a kid, which really does work! Cost is \$1/person; limited to 35 children (first-come, first-served). Nature

Center Amphitheater.

**11:30am Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

**12:00pm** Flag Flash Back – Learn about the origins of the American flag in the 1700s and make your own "Thirteen Colonies" flag. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).

**1:00pm** Tire Forge – Compare and contrast a modern tire with an 1800s wagon wheel – learn how they differ and how the 1800s version was made. Pioneer Village, Blacksmith Shop (45 min).

### Sunday, July 6 Continued...

2:00pm



**Kids Fishing Derby** – This afternoon fishing derby is open to kids ages 12 and under. Prizes for the largest, smallest, and most fish caught. *Don't have a pole? Come to our 11:30am program to make your own*. Older children and adults are welcome to fish alongside the contestants, but they will not be eligible for prizes. Meet on the back patio of the Nature Center (1 hr 30 min).

2:30pm

**Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

3:30pm

**Capture the Moment** – Create a unique foam picture frame to display your favorite photo from the weekend! Nature Center Amphitheater (30 min).

Nature composes some of her loveliest poems for the microscope and the telescope. ~ Theodore Roszak

### Monday, July 7

1:30pm



A Tisket, a Tasket, a Recycled Basket – Learn about the local history of basket-making while constructing your own basket out of recycled materials. Nature Center Amphitheater (1 hr).

# Tuesday, July 8

3p-5p



Grey, Flying, and Fox: Spring Mill's Squirrels – Learn about the types of squirrels that live in our park, meet one up close, and discover what it takes to be a wildlife rehabilitator. Watch for the roving naturalist in the Campground.

## Wednesday, July 9

11:30am A Village in the Making – Ever wondered why pioneers

established a village here? Find out why this valley was an ideal spot and how early residents and investors converted it from frontier

land into a thriving community. Pioneer Village, Gristmill (30 min).

The Real Money-maker – It wasn't the gristmill that drove Spring 3:30pm

> Mill Village's economy... explore the history of the Village Distillery and learn how corn was turned into profitable whiskey.

Pioneer Village, Distillery (30 min).

# Thursday, July 10

Bat Basics – Find out what bat are doing during the evening hours, what 3:30pm

types are commonly seen in Spring Mill, and make a bat decoration for

your home or campsite. Nature Center Amphitheater (45 min).

8:15pm **Lives of Lightning Bugs** – Ever wondered how insect "night lites"

work? Learn all about these fascinating fireflies! Campground

Amphitheater, next to site #108 (30 min).

# Friday, July 11

11:00am Constructive Crayfish – Explore "Crawfish City" and learn about

the lives of Spring Mills crawdads. Meet in front of Sycamore

Shelter (1 hr).

Shaker Boxes - The village woodworker will demonstrate the 1:00pm construction of shaker boxes, their design, and what influence (if any) the Shakers had on Spring Mill Village. Pioneer Village, Carpenter Shop (45 min).

Saturday, July 12

# 1800s Music and Crafts Show

11a-7p

**1800s Music Showcase** – Sit back, relax, and enjoy music of the 1800s! A schedule of musicians and locations will be posted in all of the park bulletin boards, passed out at the Campground Gate, and available for pick up at the Village Gristmill. Venues located throughout the Pioneer Village.

11a-7p

**1800s Vendors Row** – Visit some artisans who specialize in 1800s-period crafts and discover unique items available for purchase, including special selections from our own Pioneer Village. Vendors will be set up along the sidewalk leading to the Pioneer Village.

1:00pm

Cornhusk Rose – Join the Village Gardener to construct a cornhusk rose. Pioneer Village, Garden Cabin (1 hr).

2:30pm

**Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

3p-5p

**Embroidery in the Shade** – Drop by our sewing "circle" to learn a bit about embroidery. For \$2/person, visitors can join the circle and embroider their initials or a simple floral design into a handkerchief to take home. Lower Residence Lawn.

5:30pm

**Xylophone X-ploration** – Explore the history of the xylophone, an 1800s invention, and find out how they were made. Pioneer Village, Pottery Shop (30 min).

**8p-10p** Pioneer Mysteries – Watch for the roving interpreter and see if you can guess the identity of some "mystery" pioneer artifacts. Campground.

# Sunday, July 13

# 1800s Music and Crafts Show

- 11a-5p 1800s Music Showcase Sit back, relax, and enjoy music of the 1800s! A schedule of musicians and locations will be posted in all of the park bulletin boards, passed out at the Campground Gate, and available for pick up at the Village Gristmill. Venues located throughout the Pioneer Village.
- 11a-5p 1800s Vendors Row Visit some artisans who specialize in 1800s-period crafts and discover unique items available for purchase, including special selections from our own Pioneer Village. Vendors will be set up along the sidewalk leading to the Pioneer Village.
- **11:30am Sawmill Demonstration** See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).
- 1:00pm Pottery in Pioneer Indiana Explore the history of pottery in 1800s Indiana and learn what we know about its place in Spring Mill Village. The potter will also share examples of items made in the 1800s and demonstrate how pieces were thrown on the wheel. Pioneer Village, Pottery Shop (45 min).
- **2:30pm Sawmill Demonstration** See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).
- **3:30pm**Yarn Dolls Pioneer children played with simple toys that they often made themselves. At this program, you'll make your own yarn doll to enjoy. *Supplies are limited to 40 people, first-come first-served.* Pioneer Village, Summer Kitchen in the Weaver's/Sheeks' Cabin (1 hr).

## Monday, July 14

**3:30pm Dulcimer Demo** – Learn about the history of a popular instrument in the 1800s, the mountain dulcimer, and enjoy a few songs. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).

### Tuesday, July 15

4:00pm Busy Beavers and Lazy Sliders – Join us for a hike around Spring Mill Lake and learn about two of its common residents – beavers and red-eared slider turtles. If we're lucky, we may even catch a

glimpse of one of them in action. Meet on the back patio of the Nature Center (1 hr).

**8:15pm** Simple Times, Simple Toys – Learn about the toys that pioneer children played with and make your own rag doll to take home. Campground Amphitheater, next to site #108 (30 min).

## Wednesday, July 16

**11:00am Be your own "outfitter!"** – Prepare yourself for hiking by making your own gear – out of common material (that has a thousand different uses!). As your construct your hiking gear, we'll discuss "dos and don'ts" for a successful hike. Perfect for children! Nature Center Amphitheater (45 min).

1:30pm

**Take a Hike** – Join us for a 2-mile (rain or shine) hiking adventure! Bring water, dress for the weather, and wear good hiking shoes. Meet at the Campground parking lot (2 hr).

## Thursday, July 17

11:00am

**Tree Talk** – Join us for a hike to identify trees using a dichotomous key and tips from the naturalist. Meet at the Nature Center Amphitheater (45 min).

**3p-4p** Trees for Tea – Stop by to learn how tea can be made from different trees and taste test some "white pine tea." Butternut Picnic Area.

My favorite weather is bird-chirping weather. ~Loire Hartwould

# Friday, July 18 \* Trgil I Gus Grissom Days

10:30am

My Planet – Make your own guide to the planets of the Milky Way while learning a bit about each one. Nature Center Amphitheater (45 min).

12p-2p

**Solar Cooking Demonstration** – Can you really cook food with sunlight alone? Yes! Drop by to find out how and see what's cooking. Grissom Memorial.

2:30pm

**Paper Airplane Contest** – How far can you fly it? Develop your paper airplane skills while learning about the principles of flight, Grissom's early days in the U.S. Air Force, and competing with other visitors for top flight honors. Grissom Memorial (45 min).

4:00pm

Nocturne Night Dial – Make a unique "clock" that will let you tell time by the stars. Nature Center Amphitheater (30 min).

# Saturday, July 19 \* Trgil \* Gus Grissom \* Pays

11a-2p

**Solar Spotting -** Ever wonder what the surface of the Sun looks like? Find out with the StoneBelt Stargazers by gazing at our star through special telescopes (don't try this at home!). Grissom Memorial.

11:30am

**Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

2:00pm

Model Rocket Launch – We need some spectators to watch as we launch model rockets high into the air and see them soar out of sight... and learn that what goes up always comes back down! Sycamore Field (next to Sycamore Shelter) (45-60 min).

2:30pm

**Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

Saturday, July 19 Continued...

3:30p-5p

**Bottle Rocket Decoration** – Decorate your own "bottle rocket" to prepare it for launch! If you have an empty pop/water bottle (most 20 oz, 1 L, and 2 L bottles will work), please bring it (we'll have a few extras for those who need one). You'll be able to launch your rocket into the air beginning at 5pm today! Grissom Memorial (45 min).

4:00pm

Packing for the Loooooooooo Trip to Mars – Prepare for the 2 ½ year journey to the Red Planet by exploring how you would eat and live on a long space journey. Nature Center Amphitheater (30 min).

5p-6:30p

Bottle Rocket Launch – Come join us as we pump bottles full of water and launch them into the air (a great way to cool off on a hot day)! If you decorated your own bottle rocket earlier today, bring it with you; if not, we'll have some extra bottles to share. Grissom Memorial, south parking lot.

6p-8p

**Everyday Space Tech** – Hundreds of the products we use every day were originally designed by NASA for use in the space program. Watch for the roving naturalist in the Campground and discover the identity of a few space-based products.

9:00pm

StoneBelt Stargazers' Summer Star Party – Get a whole new perspective on the night sky when you view it through a telescope! The Stargazers will bring their telescopes to share - and point out some of the wonders of the night. The evening will open with an astronomy presentation as we wait for the sky to get dark enough for viewing. We highly suggest bringing lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on (and your own binoculars or telescope, if you have one). Swimming Pool parking lot (2 hr).

# Sunday, July 20 \*Virgil \*I \*Eus Erissom \*Days

11a-2p **Solar Spotting -** Ever wonder what the surface of the Sun looks like? Find out with the StoneBelt Stargazers by gazing at our star through special telescopes (don't try this at home!). Grissom Memorial.

11:30am **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

#### Another Flight Cancelled - Have you ever wondered why bad weather grounds a space shuttle while airplanes keep on flying? We'll solve the mystery and learn why storms still trip up space flight as much today as they did when Gus Grissom was flying more than 40 years ago. Nature Center Amphitheater (30 min).

- 12p-3p The Story of Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom – Drop in to find out more about how a local boy from Mitchell, Indiana became one of our nation's first astronauts. Steve Grissom, a relative of Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, will be on hand to share Gus's story and answer questions about exhibits in the memorial. Grissom Memorial.
- 2:30pm **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).
- 3:30pm Get with the G-Force! – Discover what effect "G-Force" has on the human body and play a unique game that will "mix you all up." Nature Center Amphitheater (30 min).

# Monday, July 21

12:00pm **Time for Dinner!** – If you have a dinner bell hanging in your home



1:00pm

today, its primary function is probably decoration, but that wasn't always the case. Learn about the history of the dinner bell and watch as the blacksmith creates one in the forge. Pioneer Village, Blacksmith Shop (45 min).

### Tuesday, July 22

#### 2:30pm



Why is there a mill at Spring Mill? – Discover the reason why pioneers selected this spot in Indiana to build a mill (actually, more than one!), learn about the different types of mills built in the 1800s, and then watch as we use the power of water to drive our gristmill's wheel. Meet next to the Gristmill's water wheel in the Pioneer Village (45 min).

### Wednesday, July 23

11:00am



Lynn Legacy – Explore the ruins of two 1800s structures connected with the Lynn family, including a cabin site that we now know as the home of George Donaldson (name sake for our cave and virgin forest). Meet at the Donaldson Cave parking lot, next to the bulletin board (1 hr).

3:30pm



Hamer Cemetery Tour – Explore the tombstones of a pioneer cemetery, from symbols and epitaphs to the stories behind the people. Meet at Hamer Cemetery (45 min).

## Thursday, July 24

4:30pm



**Down to Donaldson** – Bring a flashlight, wear comfortable shoes, and be prepared to get a little bit muddy as we explore the "dry side" of Donaldson Cave. Meet at the Donaldson Cave parking lot, next to the bulletin board (1 hr).

8:00pm

Looking at Leaves – Learn about the role that leaves play for our forest's trees. We'll finish by making a cute table lantern for your campsite with a leaf theme. Campground Amphitheater, next to site #108 (1 hr).

### Friday, July 25

11a-12p Goin' Buggy! – Learn how to identify a few insects you might see in the park and discover the difference between an insect and a bug. Watch for the roving naturalist in the Butternut Picnic Area.

3:30pm

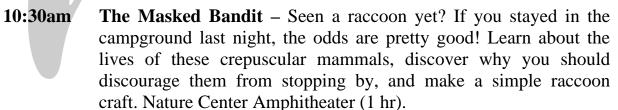
Not-at-all-slimey Snakes – Discover how to recognize common Indiana snakes while meeting a few of them up-close. Nature Center Amphitheater (45 min).

9:00pm

Pioneer Village Living History Stroll – Who were the people who lived in Spring Mill Village during the 1800s? Hear of their history, stories, and the rise and fall of village. Bring a flashlight; donations accepted. Meet at Concession Stand (1 hr).



# Saturday, July 26



11:30am **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

Say It with Flowers – Learn about the hidden meanings of flowers 1:00pm and how to send a message by giving a "tussie mussie." Pioneer Village, Garden Cabin (30 min).

**Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s 2:30pm using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

Wetland Watch – Explore the plants and animals that live in 3:00pm Spring Mill's wetland! Meet at the stone bridge next to Sycamore Shelter (1 hr).

### Saturday, July 26 Continued...

4:30pm Belt Braiding – Learn the basics of making a leather strap or belt, then braid your own bracelet/wristband/anklet. Pioneer Village, Leather Shop (45 min).

6:00pm Inkwell Art – What is an inkwell and how was it used in the 1800s? You'll find and then make your own inkwell out of selfhardening clay. Cost is \$2/person; limited to 12 people (first-come, *first-served*). Pioneer Village, Pottery Shop (45 min).

### Sunday, July 27

11:30am **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

**Creek Stomp!** – Cool off in the creek while searching for aquatic 1:00pm macroinvertebrates - water bugs! You'll learn how to catch and identify these critters while discovering their importance in water quality research. Meet at the Concession Stand (1 hr).

Sawmill Demonstration - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s 2:30pm using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

3:30pm The People Behind the Village – Explore the contributions that pioneer residents (other than the gristmill owners) made to Spring Mill Village in the 1800s. Pioneer Village, Gristmill (30 min).

4:00pm **Hop to It!** – Meet an amphibian up-close and make a cute frog craft to take home. Nature Center Amphitheater (30 min).

# Monday, July 28



3:30pm How many nails does it take? - Find out how many nails a blacksmith produced for a lap siding home, which was replacing log homes by the mid-1800s, and watch how these homemade nails were produced. Pioneer Village, Blacksmith Shop (30 min).

### Tuesday, July 29

2:00pm

**Natural Dyes** – Explore how parts of different plants, and other materials from nature, were used by pioneers to dye fabric. Pioneer Village, Weaver's/Sheeks' Cabin (45-60 min).

### Wednesday, July 30

11:30am

Is that a worm in my dirt? – Explore the importance of soil and the role that worms play in it. Meet some worms close up and discover the truth about from where worms originally came. Nature Center Amphitheater (45 min).

2p-3p

**Snake on the Move** – Our watersnake will be stopping by his old habit today... watch for the roving naturalist on the sidewalk outside the Pioneer Village and say "hello" to a snake.

### Thursday, July 31

10a-4p

Carry It All – Drop in to watch the leatherworker make small carrying satchels, useful for carrying small items like medicine and leatherworking tools (or wallets and cell phones in our modern world!) designed to fit onto a leather belt. Pioneer Village, Leather Shop.

8:00pm

**Pretty and Pressed** – Learn to identify a few of the flowers found at Spring Mill and while creating a bookmark featuring some of those flowers. Bench seating is limited; you may wish to bring your own chairs/blanket. Campground Amphitheater, next to site #108 (45 min).

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.

~Henry David Thoreau, 1854

# August

2-3: Pioneer Heritage Days

9: Look to the Stars!

23-24: Gone Caving!

30-1: Archaeology lleekend

# September

6: Amateur Photography Contest & Digital Photo Scavenger Hunt 20: Tri-Kappa Candlelight Tour of the Pioneer Village



# October

4-5: Autumn Harvest Days

11-12: Scarecrow Weekend

18-19: Fall Family Meekend